

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church  
November 2021  
News



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## From Sonya

Last month we thought about some of the ways in which God calls us to be fruitful in our everyday, ordinary lives. God also calls us to minister grace and love to everyone we meet. God has shown His great love and grace towards each one of us by sending His Son Jesus into the world to die for us. God has shown His love and grace by being willing to forgive our outrageous rebellions against Him. God has shown us His love and grace by sending His Holy Spirit to comfort, counsel and transform us so that we can reach the potential which God placed within us.



We can show love and grace towards others in small ways by noticing the invisible people, thanking someone who performs an act of service which helps us, listening to those who are isolated, sending a card of encouragement to someone. Other times, ministering grace and love requires us to go beyond the norm and can be costly to us in terms of time, energy and perhaps in other ways. This could be offering to go shopping for someone, caring for someone who is sick and has no-one to look after them, forgiving others and also apologising for our own mistakes.

Ministering grace and love is all about living generously towards others. Grace doesn't have to; love doesn't have to; but they do. Let's all look out for the opportunities which God brings to us to show His love and grace towards others we meet in our everyday lives.

Blessings to you all,  
Sonya

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.  
*Proverbs 3:5-6*

## From the Deacons

The deacons met at the home of Tim Spotswood and enjoyed refreshments and pleasant conversation before Sonya focused our thoughts by reading Proverbs 3: 5-6 and 1 Peter 5:7. The words “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take” prompted some productive prayer time and discussion, especially as we focussed on the difficult decisions needing to be made surrounding the stable block. We spent time praying for those known to us in our community who are suffering or in need, before discussing the items on our agenda.

We are still without a Treasurer which is a concern to the deacons but will continue to pray that the Lord will prompt just the right person to step forward. We remain grateful to Liz for her continued help in the interim. We ended the meeting with the Grace.



### **New Hot Water Boiler for the Kitchen**

We have had to replace the original hot water boiler because it had become unreliable. We have purchased a new Lincat boiler which has been kindly installed by Simon Van Looy. We have had a very generous grant from North Curry Community Coffee Shop, and with the money donated by TWIGS, Lunch Club and other kind individuals we have not had to dip into our funds. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed one way or another. If anyone knows of someone who would like the boiler and the new PCB for a donation please let Tim know.

THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT IS BACK!



Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church will be holding a **Big Quiz Night** on **Saturday November 20th at 7pm** in our church building. The quiz night is being held in aid of Tearfund, a charity which helps in some of the poorest areas in the world. Teams of up to 6 people are invited to come to the event with each team encouraged to give a donation to Tearfund instead of an entry fee. Quiz questions will be on a variety of subjects. Participants can bring their own drinks and nibbles, and there will be **hotdogs and bacon rolls** available for a small donation to charity in the interval. If you would like to enter a team, please email Tim at [spotswoodtim@gmail.com](mailto:spotswoodtim@gmail.com) to book a place.

## ST ALBAN, BRITAIN'S FIRST SAINT,

Alban lived in about 300 CE in the Roman town of Verulamium (today's St Albans). One day he gave shelter to a Christian priest - Amphibalus - fleeing persecution. Alban was so moved by the Christian priest's courage and faith that he asked to be taught about Christianity even though at that time it was a forbidden religion. As a result of Amphibalus' witness Alban became a Christian. When the Roman soldiers came to arrest Amphibalus, Alban exchanged cloaks with him so he could escape. Alban was brought before the city magistrates who ordered him to sacrifice to the Roman emperor and gods. Alban refused, boldly declaring, 'I am called Alban and I worship and adore the one true and living God, He who created all things.' Alban was condemned to death, taken out of the town

and beheaded for his faith.

Alban's welcome to the persecuted stranger is a powerful example of courage, compassion and hospitality, all characteristics Jesus calls us to have. St Alban's Abbey was built over the site of Alban's execution and his shrine within the abbey is a site of pilgrimage today.

St Alban is one of the saints on the nave screen installed in 2015. (The others are Oscar Romero, St Alban Roe, St Amphibalus, George Tankerfield, Sister Elisabeth Romanova and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, all people murdered for our faith.)

*Thank you to Tim for suggesting St Alban as his favourite saint.*





Reading about St Alban reminds me that there are still many who are persecuted for their faith and makes the current BMS campaign all the more relevant. The church hosted an *I Will Stand* service for the BMS 2021 Harvest Appeal, where inspirational video stories were shown about Christians living in hard places hostile to the gospel but overcoming the challenges.

There are many very interesting resources and good information about the *I Will Stand* campaign on the BMS website ([www.bmsworldmission.org](http://www.bmsworldmission.org)) including a quiz and a colouring sheet and I would encourage anyone to explore further.

**JOINT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** – will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November at the Baptist chapel, at 10.45am



## For our Prayers

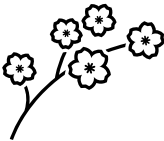
Chris and Anne Coate  
Steve and Charlotte Pimm and Megan  
Betty Woodland and Family  
Tony Williams  
Jonathan and Karen Stannard, Eleanor, Toby  
and Matty  
The deacons



We continue to hold in our prayers others known and unknown to us at this time in our community, especially Judith and David Hincks, Anne Jackson, Freda Gadsby, Paddy and Bill, Jean Pimm, and Pammy.

We pray for all those in our Armed Forces and give thanks for their service and sacrifice, remembering also their families.

## November Flowers



7th Gill Yaskin  
14th Remembrance Day  
21st Amanda Saunders  
28th Joan Thatcher  
31st Liz Hembrow

Dec 5th Mary Strange

## November 2021 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
<b>Wed 3</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom
<b>Wed 3</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 4</b>	9.30am– 11.30am	TWiGs in the schoolroom
<b>Sun 7</b>	10.30am	Family Worship with Communion with Rev Sonya Fruitfulness on the Frontline 7
<b>Sun 7</b>	5pm	Village Bonfire on the Playing Field
<b>Mon 8</b>	10am-1pm	Church open for quiet prayer
<b>Wed 10</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 11</b>	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the schoolroom
<b>Sun 14</b>	10.45am	Joint Remembrance Day Service at the Baptist Church
<b>Mon 15</b>	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting
<b>Tue 16</b>	2pm	Open The Book planning meeting
<b>Wed 17</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom
<b>Thurs 18</b>	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the schoolroom
<b>Sat 20</b>	7pm	Tear Fund Big Quiz
<b>Sun 21</b>	10.30am	Family Worship with Rev Sonya Fruitfulness on the Frontline 8
<b>Mon 22</b>	7.30pm	Church Members meeting
<b>Wed 24</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 25</b>	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the schoolroom
<b>Sun 28</b>	10.30am	Family Worship with Rev Sonya Advent 1: Luke 1:5-25
<b>Tue 30</b>	2pm	Open The Book planning meeting